

Figure 7

1980-84 North Carolina Drownings
by Age and Blood Ethanol Levels

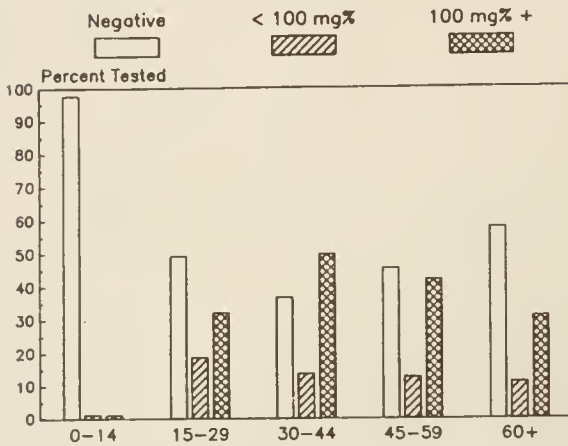


Figure 8

1980-84 North Carolina Drownings
by Activity and Blood Ethanol Levels

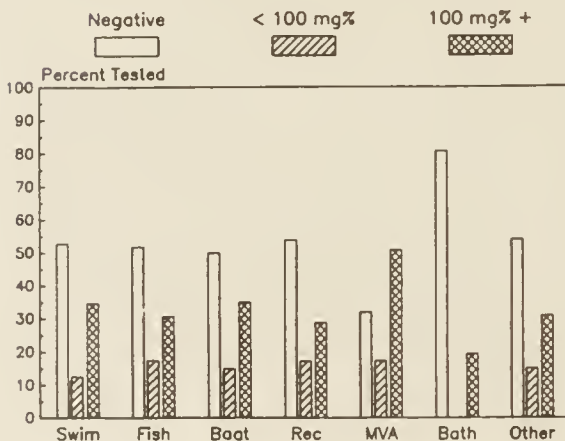
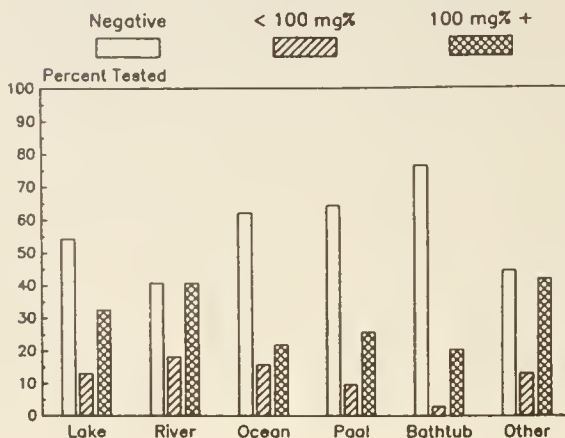


Figure 9

1980-84 North Carolina Drownings
by Setting and Blood Ethanol Levels



Drownings by Demographic Characteristics

The activities that differed from total drownings by sex distribution were activities related to fishing, motorboating, motor vehicle crashes, and bathing. Males accounted for 98% of the fishing deaths and 96% of the motorboating deaths. The overrepresentation of males in fishing fatalities was seen in both races, with nonwhite males being overrepresented in fishing-from-shore deaths and white males being overrepresented in fishing-from-boat deaths. Females accounted for a relatively high percentage of drownings in motor vehicle crash deaths (27%) and bathing deaths (43%). Most of the females who drowned in motor vehicle crashes were passengers.

The age distribution of drowning victims varied by activity. Children less than the age of 5 years accounted for 6% of total drownings, but 25% of bathing drownings and 20% of "all other" drownings. Persons 10-24 years old represented 38% of total drownings but 60% of swimming deaths. Males 10-24 years old were highly represented in the category of swimming deaths. Of the 352 males ages 10-24 who drowned, 66% drowned while swimming. Furthermore, of the 147 nonwhite males ages 10-24 who drowned, 77% drowned while swimming.

The race-sex distribution of drownings was skewed in motorboating and other recreational deaths. White males were overrepresented in motorboating deaths, accounting for 71%. This was especially true of white males aged 25-59 years, as they accounted for 49% of the motorboat drownings compared to 24% of the total drownings. White males were also overrepresented in other recreational (canoeing, sailing, scuba diving, water skiing, etc.) drownings, accounting for 82%. Furthermore, 37% of the other recreational drowning victims were white males ages 15-39 years.

Variation in the demographic characteristics of drowning victims was also evident by setting. For example, females represented 28% of the private pool drownings and children less than the age of 5 years accounted for 43% of these drownings. In public or motel pools, however, nonwhites constituted 59% of the drownings and persons age 10-19 years represented 52% of these drownings, yet only 23% of the total drownings. The age difference between drownings in private pools and those in public or motel pools was also evident in the victim's activity before drowning. In the public and motel pools, 91% of the drownings were swimming deaths. However, in private pools only 63% of the drownings were swimming deaths. The reason for this discrepancy was the large number of children who fell into a private pool.

Several settings had skewed race-sex distributions compared to total drownings. Nonwhite males accounted for a high percentage of drownings in ponds (50%) and in incidental water (47%), while white males accounted for a high percentage of drownings in a rock quarry (77%) and in the ocean (75%). Males 15-29 years old especially were overrepresented in rock quarry drownings, accounting for 82%.